

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CPR-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 PM-03 H-02 TRSE-00 SSO-00

(ISO) W

----- 096756

O R 291443Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9742

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD PFOR UR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY PLANS TO COMMEMORATE WORLD
WAR II DEAD

1. FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY (MFT) PROTOCOL CHIEF RAKHMANIN CALLED ECON/COMM COUNSELOR IN TO FLOAT SUGGESTION THAT PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL OFFICERS OF EMBASSIES REPRESENTING COUNTRIES ALLIED TO USSR IN WORLD WAR II JOIN MINISTER PATOLICHEV AND DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTERS AND EASTERN EUROPEAN TRADE REPRESENTATIVES IN WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN MOSCOW ON MAY 8. RAKHMANIN SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO CAUSE ANY EMBARRASSEMENT TO WESTERNERS BY PROPOSING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT AND ASKED COUNSELOR TO SOUND OUT COLLEAGUES, ESPECIALLY BRITISH AND FRENCH, AND GIVE HIM THEIR REACTION ASAP. IF RESPONSE FAVORABLE, MFT WOULD PROCEED TO INVIT APPROPRIATE COMMERCIAL COUNSELORS TO TAKE PART.

2. AS MFT ENVISIONS IT, CEREMONY WOULD CONSIST IN MEETING OF COUNSELORS, TRADE REPS AND MFT REPRESENTATIVES AT TOMB AT 1400 HOURS MAY 8. GROUP WOULD PROCEED TO TOMB, WHERE
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PATOLICHEV AND EACH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE WOULD LAY

INDIVIDUAL WREATH, THEN STAND FOR MOMENT OF SILENCE BEFORE
DISPERSING. NO SPEECHES OR OTHER SPOKEN REMARKS ARE TO
BE MADE.

3. PENDING CONFIRMATION THAT NEITHER BRITISH NOR FRENCH
MOSCOW EMBASSY HAS ANY OBJECTION TO MFT PROPOSAL, EMBASSY
RECOMMENDS DEPT CONCUR IN US PARTICIPATION, PROVIDED THAT
SOVIETS INVITE ALSO AUSTRALIANS, BELGIANS, CANADIANS, DANES,
DUTCH, NEW ZEALANDERS AND NORWEGIANS TO JOIN ON PRINCIPLE
THAT ALL WWII ALIES REPRESENTED HERE SHOULD BE WELCOME TO
HONOR TOGETHER THE SACRIFICES MADE IN COMMON CAUSE.

4. IF NO INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRARY RECEIVED BY 1000 MOSCOW
TIME APRIL 30 AND IF FRENCH AND UK EMBASSIES APPROVE EMBASSY
WILL EXPECT TO INFORM MFT OF US, BRITISH AND FRENCH CONCURRENCE
IN RAKHMANIN'S PROPOSAL SUBJECT TO INCLUSION OF OTHER
EMBASSIES MENTIONED PARA 3 ABOVE.
STOESSEL

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